REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above referenced application, in view of the amendments above and remarks below, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the restrictions and understand that claims 32-48 are currently pending. Claims 32-40 and 42-47 have been amended and claim 41 has been cancelled herein.

Claims 32-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over US 5,709,743 to Leture *et al.* ('743), US 2006/0048683 to Chatterji *et al.* ('683 A1), US 2004/0168803 Reddy *et al.* ('803 A1), US 2003/0110987 to Reddy *et al.* ('987 A1), US 2003/0177954 and US 2003/0177955 to Vijn *et al.* ('954 A1) and ('955 A1) and US 2002/0112650 to Prat *et al* ('650 A1). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants have amended claim 32 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 41, now cancelled, to further define the additive comprising hydrophilic functional groups as a film-forming polymer comprising anionic hydrophilic groups.

None of the cited references teach or suggest the method of amended claim 32 for accelerating the setting of a hydraulic inorganic binder composition to which has been added a film-forming polymer comprising anionic hydrophilic groups, by further adding calcium silicate hydrates or silica with a specific surface area, of at least 200 m^2/g.

US 5,709,743 to Leture *et al.* ('743) discloses, as an alternate to $CaCl_2$, a calcium silicate hydrate accelerator prepared from the hydration and wet grinding of Portland cement to a sufficiently fine particle size to form "crystallization seeds."

US 5,709,743 to Leture *et al.* ('743) discloses a low-density calcium silicate hydrate, prepared by known methods, as an accelerator and strength enhancing agent, for concrete and cement composites.

US 2006/0048683 to Chatterji *et al.* ('683 A1) discloses oil suspensions of silica powders that may be added to cement compositions without the release of silica powder or dust.

US 2004/0168803 Reddy *et al.* ('803 A1) discloses a "desegregating agent" comprising precipitated silica, which may be added to cement compositions, in order to prevent the segregation of lightweight beads.

US 2003/0110987 to Reddy *et al.* ('987 A1) discloses a "flow enhancing agent" comprising precipitated silica, which may be added to enhance the flow of dry cementitious material.

US 2003/0177954 and US 2003/0177955 to Vijn *et al.* ('954 A1) and ('955 A1) disclose storable water-microsphere suspensions, which may comprise fumed silica as a suspending agent, which suspensions may be used in forming light weight well cements

US 2002/0112650 to Prat *et al* ('650 A1) discloses an aqueous suspension of precipitated silica and at least one latex, namely an aqueous suspension of particles of natural synthetic resin, or for use in inorganic binders and concrete compositions to decrease the bleeding and segregation effects, and further to improve fluidity and impart durability to the set product. '650 A1 discloses as optional, the use of a setting accelerator, which may be aluminum sulphate, may be utilized. Specifically, '650 A1 doest not teach or suggest the addition of anionic hydrophilic groups to the polymer or accelerating a binder containing such a polymer by further adding calcium silicate hydrates or silica with the claimed high specific surface area of at least 200 m^2/g.

Therefore, none of the cited references teach or suggest the method to accelerate a binder, as set forth in amended claim 32, where calcium silicate hydrates or silica with a specific surface

area of at least 200 m^2/g, are added to the binder composition containing a film-forming polymer to which have been added anionic hydrophilic groups.

Claims 32-48 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 for failing to point out and distinctively claim the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed. In response, applicants have amended claim 32, as suggested by the Examiner, to include the functional language --effective to accelerate the hydraulic binder--, and to further define silica with a high surface area --of at least 200 m^2/g--.

Applicants have further amended claim 34 to correct the misspelling of "step" and deleted the term "a degree of" from claim 45.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If it would be of any assistance with this file, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:

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